

In the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) ~~Arrangement of a~~ A multi-part intervertebral endoprosthesis, ~~(9), which has comprising~~ a top closure plate, ~~[[and]] a bottom closure plate (91, 92) and,~~
~~between these,~~ a sliding core ~~[[(93)]]~~ between the top and bottom closure plates, each closure plate ~~(91, 92) being assigned~~ including a pair of receiving openings (96, 97) or projections, and ~~[[of]]~~ an insertion instrument ~~[[(1),]]~~ which ~~[[has]]~~ comprises a handgrip area (21, 31) and a gripping area ~~(22, 32)~~ portion for engaging the top and bottom closure plates with corresponding retention projections ~~(51, 52)~~ or openings which, in order to hold the intervertebral endoprosthesis ~~[[(9)]]~~ on the insertion instrument ~~[[(1)]]~~, ~~can be engaged in~~ are configured to engage with the corresponding receiving openings (96, 97) or projections, ~~characterized in that~~

the receiving openings (96, 97) ~~are being~~ arranged in lateral side faces relative to an implanted position of the ~~intervertebral endoprosthesis (9)~~ closure plates, and at least the pair of receiving openings ~~[[(96)]]~~ assigned to at least one of the closure plates ~~[[(92)]]~~ has ~~[[a]]~~ an extended shape ~~extended in the~~ extending in a direction toward the other closure plate ~~[[(91)]]~~.

2. (Currently Amended) ~~Arrangement according to Claim~~ The multi-part intervertebral endoprosthesis of claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the receiving opening ~~(96)~~ openings with an extended shape ~~[[is]]~~ are in the form of a slit.

3. (Currently Amended) ~~Arrangement according to Claim~~ The multi-part intervertebral endoprosthesis of claim 1 or 2, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the receiving opening ~~(96)~~ openings with an extended shape ~~extends~~ extend over the entire height of the assigned closure plate ~~[[(92)]]~~.

4. (Currently Amended) ~~Arrangement according to one of the preceding claims~~ The multi-part intervertebral endoprosthesis of claim 1 or 2, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the receiving opening ~~(96)~~ openings with an extended shape ~~extends~~ extend over part of the height of the sliding core ~~[[(93)]]~~.

5. (Currently Amended) ~~Arrangement according to one of the preceding claims~~ The multi-part intervertebral endoprosthesis of claim 1 or 2, characterized in that wherein the receiving opening (96') openings with an extended shape extends extend over the entire height of the sliding core [(93)]].

6. (Currently Amended) ~~Arrangement according to one of the preceding claims~~ The multi-part intervertebral endoprosthesis of claim 1 or 2, characterized in that wherein the receiving opening (96) openings with an extended shape narrows narrow with increasing depth relative to a height of the multi-part intervertebral endoprosthesis.

7. (Currently Amended) ~~Arrangement according to one of the preceding claims~~ The multi-part intervertebral endoprosthesis of claim 1 or 2, characterized in that the wherein receiving opening (97) openings assigned to the other closure plate [(91)] has a concentrated round shape.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) ~~Arrangement according to one of the preceding claims~~ The multi-part intervertebral endoprosthesis of claim 1 or 2, characterized in that wherein the retention projections are designed as small plates (52) and as or pins [(51)]].

10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently Amended) ~~Arrangement according to one of the preceding claims~~ The multi-part intervertebral endoprosthesis of claim 1 or 2, characterized in that for the intervertebral endoprosthesis (9, 9'), comprising different sizes are provided with of sliding cores (93, 93') of different thicknesses.

12. (Currently Amended) ~~Arrangement according to one of the preceding claims~~ The multi-part intervertebral endoprosthesis of claim 1, characterized in that wherein the gripping portion of the insertion instrument comprises a block [(61')] with an abutment surface [(62)] configured for bearing on the intervertebral endoprosthesis (9) is provided on a gripping area at least one of the closure plates, said block [(61')] being connected to a force-receiving part on

the insertion instrument for applying an insertion force to the intervertebral endoprosthesis [[(9)]].

13. (Currently Amended) ~~Arrangement according to Claim~~ The multi-part intervertebral endoprosthesis of claim 12, characterized in that wherein the block [[(61')]] is arranged rigidly on the gripping ~~area (22)~~ portion.

14. (Currently Amended) ~~Arrangement according to Claim~~ The multi-part intervertebral endoprosthesis of claim 13, characterized in that wherein the block [[(61')]] is secured ~~by means of~~ to the gripping portion with a through-screw [[(68)]].

15. (Currently Amended) ~~Arrangement according to Claim~~ The multi-part intervertebral endoprosthesis of claim 13, characterized in that wherein the block [[(61')]] is secured ~~by means of~~ to the gripping portion with a clamping screw [[(66)]].

16. (Currently Amended) ~~Arrangement according to one of Claims 12 to 15~~ The multi-part intervertebral endoprosthesis of claim 12, 13, 14 or 15, characterized in that further comprising a rod [[(71)]] with a handle [[(72)]] in the rear area of the handgrip ~~part (21)~~ is arranged on the block [[(61')]].

17. (Currently Amended) ~~Arrangement according to Claim~~ The multi-part intervertebral endoprosthesis of claim 16, characterized in that wherein the handle is designed as a strike head [[(76)]].

18. (Currently Amended) ~~Arrangement according to one of Claims 13 to~~ The multi-part intervertebral endoprosthesis of claim 13, 14, 15 or 17, characterized in that wherein the block [[(61')]] is arranged on ~~[[the]]~~ a jaw insert [[(53)]].

19. (New) A multi-part intervertebral endoprosthesis, comprising a top closure plate, a bottom closure plate, a sliding core between the top and bottom closure plates, each closure plate including a pair of projections, and an insertion instrument which comprises a handgrip and a gripping portion for engaging the top and bottom closure plates with corresponding retention openings which, in order to hold the intervertebral endoprosthesis on the insertion instrument are

configured to engage with the corresponding receiving projections, the receiving projections being arranged in lateral side faces relative to an implanted position of the closure plates, and the pair of receiving projections assigned to at least one of the closure plates has an extended shape extending in a direction toward the other closure plate.

20. (New) The multi-part intervertebral endoprosthesis of claim 19, wherein the receiving projections with an extended shape are in the form of a slit.